(ix) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exports, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Plants eligible for TUFS benefits

3083. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have removed wind mills from the list of plants eligible for availing benefits under Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS);

(b) if is, whether this move will put the textile mills in South India to a great disadvantage as Tamil Nadu alone accounts for 57 per cent of the total wind power generated in India which reduces the power cost for textile mills;

(c) the details on (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether the decision for removal of wind mills from the TUFS will be revised by the Government to encourage growth in textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The TUFS aims at making available funds to the domestic textile industry for technology upgradation of existing units as well as to set up new units with state-of-the-art technology so that its viability and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets may

enhance. On the other hand, the decision to invest in captive wind energy plants is basically a commercial decision which has no link with the technology upgradation of textile sector. Though in March, 2003 Government had allowed coverage of wind energy plants under TUFS, it was observed that it had resulted in subsidy for establishment of wind energy parks for supply of electricity to the Electricity Boards. In order to save this diversification of funds, Government reviewed its decision and coverage of wind energy plants was discontinued from TUFS w.e.f. 22.02.2005. This decision is not specific to any State and applies to throughout the country.

(d) Government have received a number of requests to review its decision. However, no decision has been taken to review it.

Import of readymade garments from India

3084. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which are importing readymade garments like shawls/ knitwear etc. from India specially Ludhiana (Punjab);

(b) the value of export of readymade garments during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have explored the possibility to increase the export; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) India's readymade garments, including shawl/knitwear, are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, the USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Australia, etc. have been the major importing countries of our readymade garments.

(b) and (c) As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the readymade garments exports during